



City Of Columbus  
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

## Department of Public Utilities

Tatyana Arsh, P.E., Director

**For immediate release  
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### **Small Businesses Learning How To Grow With City of Columbus— “Focusing On Small Businesses, Achieving Big Results” Theme Of 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Forum and Expo**

(Columbus) Columbus is working to help small businesses grow and do business with City Departments on public projects and services through the Small Business Forum and Expo, on Wednesday, March 26, 7 a.m. to Noon, at Veterans Memorial, 300 West Broad Street. This 7<sup>th</sup> annual event will be kicked off by Mayor Michael B. Coleman, as hundreds of local business owners get to hear from, and meet with, City purchasing and contracting teams. There will also be presentations by larger local firms sharing their experiences, and mentoring smaller companies on how best to compete for contracting and subcontracting opportunities.

**“The City of Columbus operates every day using the goods and services from a very diverse array of local small businesses, and we want to help those companies and more grow their job bases,” said Mayor Coleman. “By mentoring smaller companies on how to do business with the city, they can grow to create the jobs that help drive our future.”**

Goals of the Forum and Expo include:

- ◆ Improve procurement efficiency by clearly explaining the city’s purchasing procedures
- ◆ Provide a forum to foster mentoring opportunities between large and small businesses
- ◆ Discover new procurement opportunities with the City
- ◆ Understand the socio-economic and legal environments that effect public procurement
- ◆ Energize local leaders through the city’s continued commitment and investment in emerging businesses

**“I’m the son of an owner of a small business and know the challenges that a small business owner faces,” said City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian. “I’m proud to be associated with each of you and wish you success in meeting your own unique challenges.”**

Breakout sessions will feature a variety of information useful to new and small businesses, including how they can participate in Mayor Coleman’s Get Green Columbus initiative. Additional workshops will: offer tips on how to generate winning bids with the city; how to implement inclusive practices; updates on downtown development projects; and information on large city capital sewer and other projects. Information booths will be staffed by employees of city departments and representatives of large companies.

**— more —**

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**“I chair City Council’s newest committee, the Minority and Small Business Development Committee, and it has been created with one goal in mind, to make sure every company, no matter what the size or who owns the firm, can succeed in today’s competitive business climate,” said Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig.**

Each year, the Department of Public Utilities works with EBO and other City departments to organize the Small Business Forum and Expo.

**“Small businesses are key in helping us do the work we do each day to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods,” said Public Utilities Director Tanya Arsh. “The Small Business Forum and Expo is an excellent networking and learning opportunity for the many diverse firms who want to be part of making this a greater city.”**